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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/026,430	12/27/2001	Iwao Matsushima	017344-0321	1560

22428 7590 04/19/2006

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EXAMINER

KASENGE, CHARLES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,430

Applicant(s)

MATSUSHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles R. Kasenge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 10 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-11, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/5/02, 12/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: IDS cont: 4/28/04, 5/10/05.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Although amendments have been entered, for future notice when amendments to the claims are submitted, all pending claims need to be presented.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 8 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims need to end with a period. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5, 8, 10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rheem U.S. Patent 6,401,003. Regarding claim 1, Rheem discloses production system comprising a plurality of fabrication apparatuses arranged in series for performing a sequential processing of work units applied to the system, all or some of said fabrication apparatuses being respectively equipped with sets of lamps each of which visually indicates fabrication states of the corresponding fabrication apparatus (col. 1 and 2, lines 56-67 and 1-9) by energizing or de-energizing different colored lamps (col. 2, lines 53-60), said production system comprises: a

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lamp control signal monitor being provided in each of the lamp equipped fabrication apparatuses, said lamp control signal monitor receiving lamp control information used to energize or de-energize said colored lamps, and storing data indicative of start and finish time points and time durations of energization and de-energization of the colored lamps (col. 3 and 4, lines 37-67 and 1-8).

Regarding claims 2-5 and 12-14, Rheem discloses the production system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the lamp equipped fabrication apparatuses comprises a display coupled to the lamp control signal monitor, the display selectively indicating a time duration for which one of the fabrication states continues, the displaying being performed under control of said lamp control signal monitor and based on said data stored in the control signal monitor (col. 1, lines 27-35 and col. 7, lines 23-29). Rheem discloses the production system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the display selectively indicate simultaneously two or more time durations for which corresponding fabrication states continue (col. 3 and 4, lines 37-67 and 1-8). Rheem discloses the production system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the light control signal monitor further comprises a switch for selecting one or more time durations to be displayed on the display (col. 4, lines 10-18). Rheem discloses the production system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a computer coupled to the control signal monitors of the production system so as to collect said data stored therein (col. 3 and 4, lines 37-67 and 1-8).

Regarding claims 8 and 10, the production system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lamp control signal monitors of the production system are coupled to a local area network (LAN)

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and respectively supply the local area network with said data indicating the start and finish time points and the time durations of energization and de-energization of the colored lamps (col. 3 and 4, lines 37-67 and 1-8).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles R. Kasenge whose telephone number is 571 272-3743. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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CK

April 13, 2006

Albert W. Paladini 4-14-06
ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER